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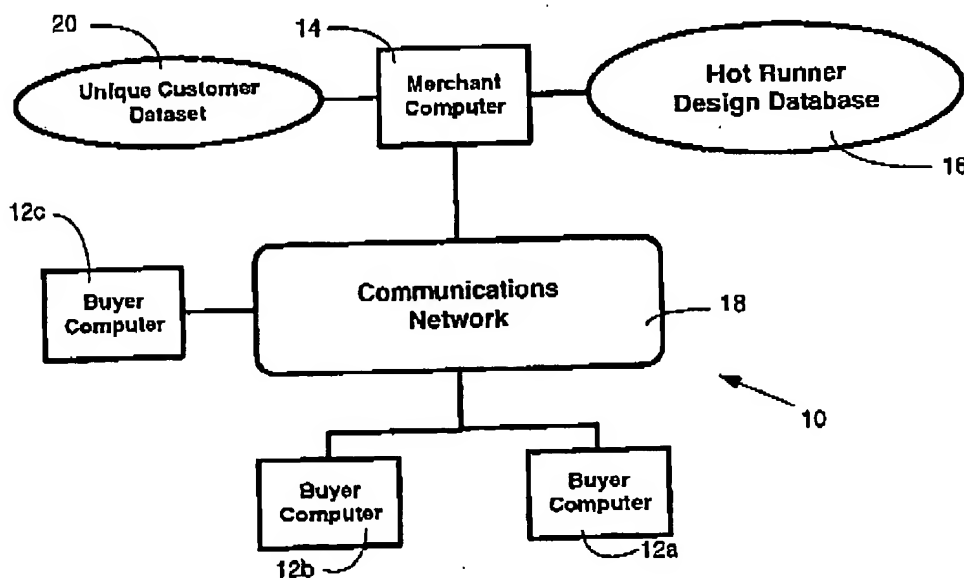
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONFIGURING, ORDERING AND MANAGING THE FABRICATION IN A FACTORY OF AN INJECTION MOLDING MACHINE APPARATUS USING A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A complete system for the online design and purchasing of an injection molding machine apparatus is presented. At least one merchant computer is connected to at least one buyer computer over a communications network whereby a buyer can selectably design and place on order an injection molding machine apparatus. Improved means for storage and sharing of design information of the machine apparatus is presented which results in reduced fabrication cycle time and improved quality and on time

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International Search No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60 G06F17/50

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPO

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 52144 A (DICKSON LEROY ;AMUNDSEN THOMAS (US); GROOT JOHN (US); KNOWLES C HA) 19 November 1998 (1998-11-19) abstract; figures 1-9 page 3, line 4 -page 4, line 13 page 7, line 4 -page 11, line 2	1-9
X	EP 0 520 923 A (IBM) 30 December 1992 (1992-12-30) abstract; figures 1,2 column 2, line 23 -column 3, line 3	1-9
A	GB 2 343 972 A (DELL USA LP) 24 May 2000 (2000-05-24) abstract; figure 1 page 4, line 13 -page 5, line 14 -/-	1-9

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 99 13417 A (SCIENCE APPLIC INT CORP) 18 March 1999 (1999-03-18) abstract; figures 3,6 page 3, line 15 -page 4, line 8	1-9

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